

ABSTRACT

A method of treating elevated cholesterol levels, hyperlipidemia and/or hypercholesterolemia in a mammal includes administering an effective amount of theaflavins, thearubigins, and their mixture. The theaflavins include theaflavin and gallate esters of theaflavin, particularly those obtained from tea. The gallate esters include theaflavin-3-gallate, theaflavin-3'-gallate, and theaflavin-3,3'-digallate.